

Chatham World Heritage News

The latest from Chatham Dockyard and its Defences

November 2011



Welcome to the November 2011 edition of the Chatham World Heritage newsletter:

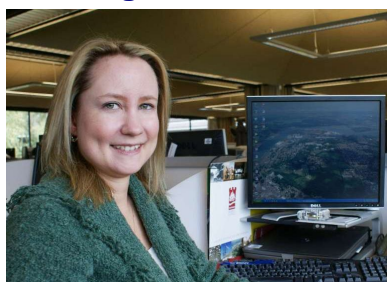
We have an exciting newsletter for you this month, with news of staff changes, park awards, oral history, and Tudor remains, to list just a few highlights. The last few months have clearly been very busy, and have also seen a very well-attended meeting of the Chatham World Heritage Partnership, kindly hosted by the Royal School of Military Engineering, with exciting updates on plans to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the Royal Engineers in Medway next year, and a fascinating account of the Corps' relationship with Brompton. There was also a tantalising preview of plans to transform visitor arrivals at The Historic Dockyard with a new exhibition telling the story of the Dockyard and its Defences from the Age of Sail, revealing to the public a unique historic find of ships' timbers. Thanks to all our speakers, and to everyone who came to show their support. Finally, it may seem frightfully early, but this is our last newsletter of 2011, so I'll take this chance to wish you all the best for 2012.



Lindsey Morgan

Chair of the Chatham World Heritage Partnership

All change at Chatham World Heritage – for a while:



From 18th November until early September 2012, Chatham World Heritage manager Joanne Cable will be taking maternity leave. Great Lines Heritage Park project officer Nicola Moy will be taking on some of Joanne's role, and new recruit Mike Sewell – who you might remember from the reception desk at Partnership meetings – will be supporting Nicola. You can contact Nicola and Mike via chathamworldheritage@medway.gov.uk or 01634 334319.

Spotlight On: Storekeeper's House, Gun Wharf (early 18th c.), Grade II Listed:

Now the Command House pub, the Storekeeper's House is a rare surviving example of an ordnance building. The Storekeeper controlled the ordnance depot at Gun Wharf, and was provided with his own house, the quality of which shows the status of his role. The Storekeeper's House has recently been the subject of an archaeological investigation, filmed for TV. Archaeologist Paul Blinkhorn and TV host Rory McGrath spent five days at Gun Wharf overseeing the Wharf's first ever below-ground archaeological dig, which culminated with the exciting



discovery of evidence of the original Tudor Dockyard (located at Gun Wharf before its move downstream in the 17th century). Paul Blinkhorn stated of the find "The dig was a thrill and a privilege. To be able to carry out the first formal excavations on a site of such global importance was certainly an experience I shall never forget, and the results were better than we could have dared to hope." "Pub Dig" will be shown on The History Channel at 9pm on Friday 2nd December, and on Channel 5 next spring.

Do you Tweet?

Why not follow @DockyardChatham, @UpnorCastle, @greatlinespark and @FortAmherst?



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Brompton Research Open Day:

The Brompton Research Study Group – led by local volunteers - is looking for memories of Brompton. If you visited, worked or lived in Brompton in the '40s, '50s or '60s (or earlier) please come along to a drop-in session on 13th January 2012, between 1.30 and 3.30, at the Royal Engineers Museum, Library and Archives (Prince Arthur Road). Or, if you know anyone who fits the bill, please encourage them to attend - there's no need to book, and refreshments will be provided.

This session is part of a bigger project exploring what it was like to live in Brompton from the age of sail onwards. For more information on the open session or the project as a whole, please contact Nicola Moy via 01634 334319 or chathamworldheritage@medway.gov.uk.

Who's Who: Peter Kendall:



Peter Kendall is the English Heritage representative working on the World Heritage Site bid and many other related projects in Medway. He leads a team of heritage specialists who cover work in Kent and East Sussex and Peter also looks after Medway as an Inspector of Ancient Monuments. He is an archaeologist and has a special interest in dockyards and fortifications so Medway is the ideal place for him to work. We hope that Peter's research on the Chatham garrison will appear as an English Heritage book during 2012.

Partnership feedback:



At the 3rd November Partnership meeting we asked for your comments and suggestions about the Partnership, in particular about our objectives, the format of meetings and how we should spend the Partnership Fund (our small grants scheme). Ideas included supporting local and traditional crafts and projects about local history. There were comments throughout about involving more young people, including using the fund to support local

students. We will use these ideas when agreeing funding in 2012. It was reassuring that you thought our objectives should be about preservation, information and promotion, and pleasing to hear that you appreciate our meeting venues, and have good ideas for future content. The full list of comments will be available on the website soon, and we will keep you posted about how we take them forward. If you weren't able to attend the meeting, thoughts are still welcome via chathamworldheritage@medway.gov.uk, or by post to Nicola Moy, Chatham World Heritage, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TR.

Sincere thanks are due to The Berkeley Group for their very generous support of the Partnership meeting, in recognition of their new development in Gillingham, Victory Pier.

Berkeley
Designed for life

Jargon Buster: UNESCO.

The United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) awards World Heritage Site status to sites in the 195 countries that have signed the World Heritage Convention, agreeing to preserve and protect internationally important heritage. Representatives from 21 countries make up the UNESCO World Heritage Committee which meets each summer to add new sites to List and to monitor how sites are being cared for. As of 2011, UNESCO has awarded World Heritage Site status to 936 sites, 28 of which are in the UK and its overseas territories. No UK nomination has ever failed.

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November 2011



New to the web:

You can now explore Chatham Dockyard and its Defences without leaving home thanks to fresh features at www.chathamworldheritage.co.uk. Interactive maps allow you to learn about the site's outstanding heritage, and can help plan a visit. An eight-minute virtual tour offers highlights for those unable to visit Chatham, or a taster for anyone thinking of coming to explore. The new area of the website can also showcase videos and audioclips – and any content readers can share will be very welcome. New features coming soon will include a store of historic maps from the earliest days of the Dockyard and its Defences. Thanks to student Benjamin Eze from the University of Greenwich who designed and built these new features as part of his studies.



New on the ground:



Two new galleries are now open at the Royal Engineers Museum - one telling the story of the origins of the Royal Engineers, the other reflecting on the Corps' current role. Both galleries have interactive displays, suitable for all ages.

The three rooms of the Early Engineers Gallery illustrate the evolution of engineering from castle design and siegecraft, through to the professional engineers of today. Highlights include teeth collected from the battlefield of Waterloo and the map used by Wellington at Waterloo, complete with his pencil marks.

The Corps Today Gallery is a modern look at the Corps' achievements since 2001, and includes an 'in memoriam' section remembering those who lost their lives in the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.

Dockyard appeal:

The hunt is on for local stories to include in new 19th and 20th galleries, opening at the Historic Dockyard in the Spring. Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust is looking for people who worked or have a link to the dockyard, to share their reminiscences. Stories can range from daily life, apprenticeships, a specific event, or a pertinent memory. If you can contribute please contact Alex Patterson via 01634 823800 or apatterson@chdt.org.uk by the end of November.



UK Tentative List latest:

Government has asked Chatham to confirm the details of its Tentative Listing, and will formally submit the new UK Tentative List of eleven potential World Heritage Sites to UNESCO in January 2012. A seminar is being hosted by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport at their London offices in January, to help determine the order in which these sites will be nominated. As Chatham is the only site with a completed bid document, and the only site with a full time project manager, we have the strongest case possible to be the next UK nomination. As always, the Partnership will be the first to hear good news!

Great Lines Heritage Park Update

www.glhp.co.uk



Friends of Great Lines Heritage Park:



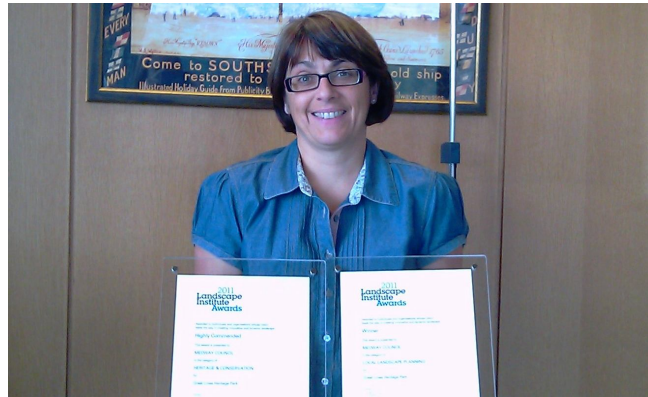
At the Friends' last open meeting in September, a call for photos of the park was launched – results can be viewed at www.foglhp.org.uk, and any further contributions will be gratefully received. Friends heard about plans to run 'Bug Hunts', and the day-to-day maintenance arrangements at the park. Kevin Steele, (Community Officer, Medway Council) encouraged all to use the 'Love Medway' app to report problems, and Martin Stoneham (Friends of the Royal Engineers Museum) kindly gave a history of the Royal School of Military Engineering.



The next litter pick is on Saturday 10th December from 10am to 12noon, starting at the Naval Memorial - everyone is welcome. The next meeting will be in February.

More Excellence Awards:

Hot on the heels of the Institution of Civil Engineers "Engineering Excellence" award, given to Prince Williams Bridge for best structure in the southeast, we are delighted to have received not just one, but two prestigious Landscape Institute awards. The Great Lines Heritage Park was highly commended in the Heritage and Conservation category, and overall winner of the Local Landscape Planning award. Well done to all involved!



STOP PRESS: *The transformation of No 1 Smithery into No. 1 Smithery: National Treasures Inspiring Culture* has this week been honoured by the award of two Royal Institute for Architecture (RIBA) awards for architecture and conservation.

News from Europe



The last newsletter brought the exciting news that we have been awarded £225,000 from the European Union for the RSME Bicentenary Bridge, which will be built in the summer of 2012. The Royal Engineers have completed their bridge design, and the planning

application for the bridge has been submitted. A special plaque is planned, to explain and illustrate the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the RSME in Chatham. The European funds are from a project designed to support community involvement in local heritage. This summer has seen a free exchange scheme for Chatham's World Heritage attractions, allowing staff and volunteers at Fort Amherst, the Royal Engineers Museum and Upnor Castle to visit each others' sites free of charge. This first hand experience will help improve the information site representatives can pass on to visitors, and encourage more people to explore further within our potential World Heritage Site. If you would like to find out more about the project, or are interested in volunteering opportunities, please contact Nicola Moy on 01634 334319, or via nicola.moy@medway.gov.uk.

